

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bähler (U.S. Pat. No. 5,075,195) in view of Harrison (U.S. Pat. No. 6,852,948).

In PTFE, which is a base material, fibers are entangled with each other due to formation by compression. When a laser beam is irradiated on the PTFE, the fibers of PTFE are disentangled and become fluffed. In other words, there is a difference between the irradiated fluffed portion and the non-irradiated portion because the fibers of PTFE at the irradiated portion become fluffed while the fibers of PTFE at the non-irradiated portion are still entangled. A marking can be made by use of such a difference in the states of the surfaces. When the PTFE includes a filler of a different color, the contrast between the irradiated fluffed portion and the non-irradiated portion becomes clearer.

In a comparison of the present application with the cited reference to Bähler, the difference between both is shown in the table below. In the present application, PTFE is the base material. On the other hand, the laser sensitive material in the cited

reference to Bähler is molybdenum disulfide (page 3, lines 25-27). As mentioned above, these materials are different as the laser sensitive materials.

		Present application			Cited reference Babler		
		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Composition	Base material	PTFE	—	—	Plastics (ex. PTFE)	—	—
	Filler	X	○ (other than white-base)	— (white-base)	X	—	○ (fillers)
	Other 1	—	—	—	Molybdenum disulfide	—	—

	Other 2	—	—	—	—	Colorant or mixture of colorants	— or X
Laser sensitive material	base material (PTFE)	—	—	Other 1 X Base material (Molybdenum disulfide)	—	—	
White color tone enhancing material	X	Filler (other than white-base)	— (other than white-base)	X	Other 2 (Colorant or mixture of colorants)	— or X	

In the present application, an output condition of a laser beam is a contrasted white-based color difference. On the other hand, the cited reference merely discloses a general laser beam power for laser marking, and does not include a technical indication of laser treatment as in the present application.

Irrespective of inclusion of a filler, the PTFE of the present invention presents a marking of a white-based color contrast in a fluffed portion provided by a laser treatment as contrasted with a non-irradiated portion.

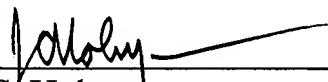
Claims 1 and 2 have been amended and new claim 3 has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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